

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1
- C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854
- Telephone: 406-240-4824
- D. Contact Person: Ryen Neudecker
- Address if different from Applicant: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name
(if other than Applicant): Heart-Heart Ranch/Mr. Roy O'Connor
- Mailing Address: 401 Valley of Moon Rd
- City: Clinton State: MT Zip: 59825
- Telephone: 406.728.0864

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Pearson Creek Restoration Project
- River, stream, or lake: Pearson Creek
- Location: Township 15N Range 13W Section 34
- County: Powell
- B. Purpose of Project:
Restore westslope cutthroat trout habitat in order to increase population abundance within Pearson Creek, Chamberlain Creek and the Blackfoot River.
- C. Brief Project Description: _____

Pearson Creek is a second-order tributary to Chamberlain Creek with a base flow of about one-cfs. The stream supports both resident and migratory westslope cutthroat trout and has been the focus of past restoration activities including a donated water lease, restoration of 4,000 feet of stream, riparian revegetation and grazing management projects. Despite these changes, FWP population surveys clearly indicate channel alterations and an undersized culvert continue to hamper the recovery of westslope cutthroat trout in lower Pearson Creek. This project will correct these channel alterations by restoring natural channel form, function and flow regimes to this reach of stream.

In order to meet restoration objectives, four project elements have been identified. These include: 1) reconstruction of 1,244 feet of new channel where the stream is currently channelized and bermed, 2) replacement of undersized culvert to restore aquatic organism passage at all ranges of flow and correct improper road drainage conditions, 3) riparian revegetation using native woody plants, and 4) grazing management changes that include riparian fencing to protect and improve cutthroat trout habitat. Project details, data, maps and photos are included in the attached *Pearson Creek Restoration Report*.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated:

~1,244 feet of channel and the new road crossing structure will improve fish passage to the upper seven miles of Pearson Creek.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ **35,000**

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ 3,000 In-kind \$ 13,500
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 39,500 In-kind \$ 3,300
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ **94,300**

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope cutthroat trout.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

The project area has been channelized and otherwise altered through past grazing and farming and road building practices. This project will renaturalize the stream and riparian area in order to enhance westslope cutthroat trout habitat. In addition to channel work, woody riparian shrubs will be planted along the stream corridor and the project area will be fenced from livestock in order to protect the project. There is currently a donated water lease in effect for Pearson Creek. We view the Pearson Creek project as an opportunity to improve habitat conditions on an important westslope cutthroat trout stream within the context of the larger Chamberlain Creek watershed. This area has been the focus of 20 years of FWP conservation actions including the transfer of former Plum Creek Timber Company lands to public ownership. FWP holds conservation easements (through Native Trout Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP)) in the headwaters of both Pearson and Chamberlain Creeks. The benefits of the Pearson Creek project will help ensure the upstream conservation actions extend to the lower stream reaches.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by increasing population abundance and providing downstream recruitment of westslope cutthroat trout to the Blackfoot River. Pearson Creek is a tributary to Chamberlain Creek which enters a portion of the Blackfoot River that receives very high angling pressure. Radio-telemetry studies show that Chamberlain Creek supports a large migratory component of westslope cutthroat trout from the Blackfoot River (Schmetterling 2001). In addition, the public has legal access to the stream at the project site.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by restoring habitat conditions for migratory cutthroat trout, thereby increasing downstream westslope cutthroat trout recruitment into the Blackfoot River.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

BBCTU will monitor riparian vegetation and grazing management response and work with the landowners to ensure the project is implemented successfully. The landowners have committed to signing a 20-year agreement to maintain the improvements and protect the integrity of the riparian area once the project is completed.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This area is important to the public because of the large upstream (HCP) investment made by the FWP Fisheries Bureau. This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of a westslope cutthroat stream. Public benefits include: 1) recruitment of recreational fisheries to the Blackfoot River, 2) improving the status of a species of special concern, and 3) improved water quality (temperature and sediment reductions) on-site and downstream.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Sponsor (if applicable):

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****